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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MERILYN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2163

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/06/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 04/06/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the communication dated 01/04/2007, claims 1-19 are pending in this action as the result of the addition of claim 19.
2. This application is a continuation of 09/632,212 (patent number 6,782,387). This application claims the priorities of Japanese Application No. 2000-229571 filed July 28, 2000, 11-353718 filed December 13, 1999, and 11-224015 filed August 06, 1999.

Remarks

3. The Terminal disclaimer filed 01/04/2007 has been approved, rendering a potential obviousness type double patenting against Patent Number 6,782,387 moot.

Amendments to the Drawings have been considered and the objections to the Drawing have been withdrawn.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 19 is objected to because of the following informalities: At line 2, "on e" is suggested to changed to --on--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it

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pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter (the newly amended limitations of “a plurality of first computer code devices”, “a second computer code device”, “a third computer code device”, “a fourth computer code device”) which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 11-18, the preamble of the claim recites, “a computer-readable recording medium including programs recorded therein”, however, the body of the claim recites means plus function. Thus, it’s unclear whether Applicant tried to claim a computer readable recording medium including instructions or tried to claim means plus function type of claim (“for providing a user interface a plurality of means of processing data”).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

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Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

7. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

As set forth in MPEP 21 06(II)A:

Identify and understand Any Practical Application Asserted for the Invention The claimed invention as a whole must accomplish a practical application. That is, it must produce a "useful, concrete and tangible result." State Street, 149 F.3d at 1373, 47USPQ2d at 1601-02. The purpose of this requirement is to limit patent protection to inventions that possess a certain level of "real world" value, as opposed to subject matter that represents nothing more than an idea or concept, or is simply a starting point for future investigation or research (Brenner v. Manson, 383 U.S. 519, 528-36, 148 USPQ 689, 693-96), 'In re Ziegler, 992, F.2d 1 197, 1200-03, 26 USPQZd 1600, 1603-06 (Fed. Cir. 1993)34. Accordingly, a complete disclosure should contain some indication of the practical application for the claimed invention, i.e., why the applicant believes the claimed invention is useful.

Apart from the utility requirement of 35 U.S.C. 101, usefulness under the patent eligibility standard requires significant functionality to be present to satisfy the useful result aspect of the practical application requirement. See Arrhythmia, 958 F.2d at 1057, 22 USPQZd at 1036. Merely claiming nonfunctional descriptive material stored in a computer-readable medium does not make the invention eligible for patenting. For example, a claim directed to a word processing file stored on a disk may satisfy the utility requirement of 35 U.S.C. 101 since the information stored may have some "real world" value. However, the mere fact that the claim may satisfy the utility requirement of 35 U.S.C. 101 does not mean that a useful result is

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achieved under the practical application requirement. The claimed invention as a whole must produce a "useful, concrete and tangible" result to have a practical application.

The claimed invention is subject to the test of State Street, 149 F.3d at 1373-74, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02. Specifically State Street sets forth that the claimed invention must produce a "useful, concrete and tangible result". The Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility states in section IV C. 2 b. (2) (on page 21 in the PDF format):

The tangible requirement does not necessarily mean that a claim must either be tied to a particular machine or apparatus or must operate to change articles or materials to a different state or thing. However, the tangible requirement does require that the claim must recite more than a §101 judicial exception, in that the process claim must set forth a practical application of that §101 judicial exception to produce a real-world result. Benson, 409 U.S. at 71-72, 175 USPQ at 676-77 (invention ineligible because had "no substantial practical application").

Claimed invention (Claims 1, 9 and 11) recites "an integrating document management system for managing access to documents distributed over a computer network, comprising: a plurality of connecting parts configured **to interface between a user interface part and a plurality of data processing parts**, and the connecting parts configured **to implement common document management operations** upon a plurality of databases, wherein each the connecting part include an interface that corresponds to a respective one of the databases and a common interface that corresponds to the user interface part." However, the connecting parts, user interface part and data processing parts are constructed without indications of the practical application to product useful and real world results. There are no practical application as to how

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connecting parts interface with user interface parts and data processing parts applied on integrating documents of the plurality of databases. For example, what is the functionality of the data processing parts applied to the integrated document management system? Claims 9 and 11 recites similar subject matter thus rejected on the same ground.

Claims 2-8, 10 and 12-19 depend on rejected based claims thus rejected on the same ground.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claim1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sziklai (US 6,341,287).

Regarding claims 1, 9 and 11, Sziklai discloses an integrating document management system for managing access to documents distributed over a computer network, an information processing apparatus and a computer-readable recording medium including programs recorded therein comprising: a plurality of connecting parts configured to interface between a user interface part and a plurality of data processing parts (See col. 15, lines 48-51 and col. 29, lines 19-30), the connecting parts configured to implement common document management

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operations upon a plurality of databases (See col. 17, line 9 to col. 22, line 20), wherein each connecting part includes an interface that corresponds to a respective one of the databases and a common interface (integrated user interface) that corresponds to the user interface part (See col. 11, lines 2-7, 56-67 and col. 15, lines 60-65, Figs. 8 and 9 shows example of connecting to product stewardship database which having a respective interface).

Regarding claims 2, 10 and 12, Sziklai discloses the plurality of databases (See col. 8, lines 25-27), wherein the data processing parts are configured to process data of the respective ones of the databases (See col. 17, line 9 to col. 22, line 20), and wherein the user interface part is configured to provide an interface for a user (See col. 11, lines 2-5).

Regarding claims 3 and 13, Sziklai discloses a display part configured to display data that regarding the plurality of databases (See Fig. 8); and an instructing part configured to allow the user to give processing instructions for data of the databases (See Fig. 8).

Regarding claims 4 and 14, Sziklai discloses wherein each of the connecting parts include a standardized interface configured to communicate with the user interface part (See Fig. 8 and col. 11, lines 56-67).

Regarding claims 5 and 15, Sziklai discloses wherein the user interface part performs connection and disconnection of the connecting parts (See col. 29, lines 19-30).

Regarding claims 6 and 16, Sziklai discloses wherein the user interface part obtains information from the connecting parts that indicates whether or not processing instructions are supported or allowed by the respective ones of the databases (See Fig. 8, “you are now connected to product stewardship”).

Regarding claims 7 and 17, Sziklai discloses wherein the user interface part uses graphic items that represent data stored the databases (See Fig. 8, icons).

Regarding claims 8 and 18, Sziklai discloses wherein the user interface part obtains graphic data used to display the graphic items from the connecting parts (See Fig. 9).

Regarding claim 9, Sziklai discloses wherein each connecting part comprises an instruction interpreting part and an instruction translating part that are configured based on each corresponding database (See Fig. 8-19 and col. 24, line 16 to col. 29, line 15).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 01/04/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicants argue that Sziklai “fails to disclose a plurality of connecting parts configured to interface between a user interface part and a plurality of data processing parts, wherein each connecting part includes (1) an interface that • corresponds to a respective one of

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the plurality of databases, and (2) a common interface that corresponds to the user interface part,
as recited in amended Claim 1”.

In response, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. Sziklai teaches a plurality of connecting parts configured to interface between a user interface part and a plurality of data processing parts (See col. 15, lines 48-51 and col. 29, lines 19-30), wherein each connecting part includes (1) an interface that corresponds to a respective one of the plurality of databases, and (2) a common interface (integrated user interface) that corresponds to the user interface part (See col. 11, lines 2-7, 56-67 and col. 15, lines 60-65, Figs. 8-19). For example, each of Figures 8-17 provide connections to respective one of plurality of databases (“product stewardship”, “Hazardous Materials and Waste”, for examples).

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

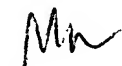
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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marilyn P Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4026.

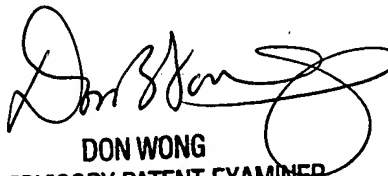
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-273-8300 for regular communications and 703-746-7240 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



MN

April 02, 2007



DON WONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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